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Letter dated 6 March 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 December 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 December 2006.

2. As at 25 December 2006, the total number of troops in theatre was 14,498, which included 2,537 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. Mongolia has contributed to the Kosovo Force (KFOR) since the beginning of December 2006.

Political situation

4. President Fatmir Sejdiu was elected leader of the largest political party in Kosovo, the League of Democratic Kosovo (LDK), at a party congress in Pristina on 9 December 2006. The Security Council discussed the issue of Kosovo on 13 December 2006 after the Secretary-General submitted to the Council his quarterly report on the work of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), including the UNMIK Chief's assessment on standards implementation.

Security situation

5. During the reporting period, one inter-ethnic incident was reported. No one was injured.

6. On 6 December 2006, a KFOR patrol vehicle was damaged by an explosive device. It is still not known whether KFOR was indeed the target of the attack.

7. During December, a total of 186 incidents related to unexploded ordnance (35), illegal weapons possession (77), weapons and ammunition findings (38), drugs (13), counterfeit currency (10), smuggling (12) and human trafficking (1) were reported, compared to 255 the previous month.

8. KFOR took multiple steps in view of the Serbian elections on 21 January 2007. Close cooperation between KFOR, UNMIK police, the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government and the Kosovo Police Service continued, as demonstrated by a successful high-level table top exercise on 20 December. The Commander of KFOR assessed that the level of cooperation between those organizations and institutions had progressed. With respect to Camp Nothing Hill in northern Kosovo, the German Operational Reserve Force Battalion rotated out and redeployed to Germany on 16 December 2006. The Multinational Task Force (South) took over responsibility at the camp.

Compliance

9. Eight major cases of non-compliance with the statement of principles of the KFOR Commander and UNMIK Regulation 1999/8 were decided at the Disciplinary Board on 14 December. Five members of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) were dismissed for absenteeism and three were suspended for 30 days pending final reports.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. In accordance with operation plan 10501 REV.2, KFOR continues to support UNMIK in training KPC on civilian and non-political aspects. There were no specific activities conducted by KPC during the reporting period.

11. The current active personnel establishment is 3,015. There are 213 (7.06 per cent) active ethnic minority members (183 males, 30 females). The total number of ethnic minorities decreased by three (all Serbs) compared to the previous month. No new ethnic minority members were appointed. The recruitment of minorities remains a KPC priority.

12. Three courses within KPC were completed in December, the command course for 20 senior officers, the officer career course for 20 members and the initial entry training for 32 members. On 13 December 2006, the Senior Leaders Seminar was held at KFOR headquarters; 21 Colonels from KPC attended a seminar focused on leadership. Standardized training of the 11 modules with an analysis programme began on 1 December 2006.

13. During the month of December there were 14 approved ceremonies which involved more than 400 KPC members and more than 800 civilians. No incidents were reported.

Conclusion

14. The overall situation in Kosovo is calm but the uncertainty related to the status talks could raise some tension in the near term. KFOR is fully prepared to deal with potential unrest as status talks progress. The threat level against UNMIK and other international community facilities remains medium, and the threat level for KFOR is low.